Expenditure on Closing Ceremony of Festival of India in USSR

1037. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred on the closing ceremony of Festival of India in USSR has been estimated at more than Rs. 1 crore;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for spending such a huge amount; and

(c) what amount was spent on closing ceremonies on various Festivals of India held in other countries and the reasons for spending huge amount on the closing ceremonies as compared to other programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir. The estimate approved for the closing ceremony of Festival of India in USSR is Rs. 96 lakhs;

(b) This estimate was approved keeping in view the size and scale of the two Festivals namely, India in the USSR and USSR in India. It was imperative that the Closing Event of the Indian Festival should be on as grand a scale as was being planned by the Soviet authorities for their Closing in India in November, 1988. The design of this event was also different, as it was envisaged as a spectacular presentation by leading Indian groups, directed towards depicting Indian history as well as contemporary aspirations through a pageant of dance and music, in which Soviet artistes would also participate, illustrating the coming together, as it were, of the two cultures. More than 550 artistes participted in the Closing Events.

The two Festivals had been conceived as grand events unprecedented in their scope bearing in mind the close links the two countries have with each other. The Closing Event, was therefore, planned to be in consonance with the overall Festival image.

(c) The expenditure on the closing ceremony/function on various Festivals of India held in other countries is as follows:—

Festival of India in U.K. Rs. 1,66,408.60

Festival of India in U.K. Rs. 7,81,692.55

Festival of India in USA Rs. 2,33,577.55

Indian Manifestation in Sweden NIL

Import of Cobalt Therapy Units

1038. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is importing Cobalt therapy units for cancer treatment from various countries and if so, what are the details of various cobalt units and the allied equipments imported so far, including the value of each imported unit and the names of companies from which imported; and

(b) what is the number of the hospitals/medical laboratories which have applied for permission to import cobalt therapy and allied units and what are the names of the institutions whose applications are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPRDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The import of Cobalt Therapy Unit is covered under Open General Licence and hospitals do not approach the Government for permission to import them. Therefore, the details of equipment, their value etc. are not available.